

March 13, 2001

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR A NATIONAL REFLEX SYMPATHETIC DYSTROPHY (RSD) MONTH

**HON. THOMAS M. BARRETT**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 13, 2001*

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of and support for people like Betsy Herman who suffer from an excruciatingly painful disease called Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD). RSD is a post-traumatic condition triggered by an injury, surgery, or infection. In simple terms, it is a malfunction of the nervous system in the body's attempt to heal. It may strike at any time, resulting in intense inflammation, swelling, stiffness and/or discoloration of the nerves, muscles, bones, skin and circulatory system.

Because RSD is a complex and little-known disease, Betsy, like scores of RSD sufferers, went for years without being diagnosed with this debilitating disorder. Instead of receiving prompt treatment for RSD after a sprained ankle and pulled muscle when she was 12 (which could have led to full recovery), Betsy was accused of faking and exaggerating her condition and was sent for psychological counseling.

Unfortunately, six years and several surgeries later, Betsy now walks with the help of an implanted device and must drive over 100 miles once a week for treatment. While other teenagers play sports and attend proms, Betsy must wait until classes are in session until she walks the halls of her high school to assure that she isn't bumped, since even the slightest touch can sometimes cause severe pain.

Despite the tremendous physical agony and emotional pain Betsy has suffered at the hands of RSD, she has worked diligently to educate the public about the condition. She recognizes that public education will help lead to correct diagnosis and increased investments in research and treatment for RSD. She also created an on-line support group for teens with RSD, providing a crucial lifeline to other young people afflicted with this incurable disease. In recognition of her efforts, the RSD Hope Group recently presented Betsy with its Humanitarian of the Year Award.

It is for Betsy Herman and other RSD sufferers that I introduce this Concurrent Resolution today expressing the sense of Congress that May should be named "National Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy Awareness Month." I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this effort to increase awareness, augment funding, and better diagnose and treat this horrible disease.

HONORING BOB WESTMORELAND  
AWARD RECIPIENT, JEANNE  
BURNS

**HON. TOM DAVIS**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 13, 2001*

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honor a

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friend of Northern Virginia, Ms. Jeanne Burns, for her many years of service to the community. Her dedication throughout our region is being rewarded at the Springfield Inter-Service Award Ceremony on March 14, 2001.

Ms. Burns' outstanding contributions to Northern Virginia have paved the way for many tremendous achievements. She served on the PTA Board at Crestwood Elementary School, where she assisted in raising thousands of dollars last year alone. The money went to support after-school programs for at-risk children, fund school field trips, provide summer school tuition for children in need, and to promote art programs through a grant with the Virginia Fine Arts Commission.

Her time is split between her work at the elementary school PTA and the PTA Board at both Key Middle School and Lee High School. Ms. Burns is also active in the schools' booster clubs. Part of her time is spent raising money for all-night graduation parties.

Ms. Burns contributed to the planning of millennium activities in Fairfax County with the group "Celebrate Fairfax." One of her other community endeavors was the Fairfax Fall Festival, which is held every year in the downtown area of the City of Fairfax. She was active in securing health care exhibits for the festival, as well as for a community health fair held at Crestwood Elementary School.

She is currently doing volunteer work at Crestwood Elementary every Monday and Wednesday night, where she works with non-English-speaking adults in literacy classes. Ms. Burns volunteers earlier on those days to teach English to young, immigrant mothers. She provides the classes with supplements that she prepares herself.

Ms. Burns continues to actively support Crestwood Elementary School with fundraising efforts and fulfills her commitment to educate non-English-speaking residents. She reminds us that there are people who are willing to give so much and ask for so little in return.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I wish the very best to Ms. Burns as she is honored at the Springfield Inter-Service Awards Banquet in Springfield, Virginia. She certainly has earned this recognition, and I call upon all of my colleagues to join me in applauding her remarkable achievements.

CONGRATULATING THE  
MONMOUTH "HAWKS"

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 13, 2001*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to Monmouth University in West Long Branch, NJ, which captured the Northeast Conference basketball championship Monday night. This gives Monmouth University a berth in the NCAA basketball tournament, the second time it has qualified for the national championships.

Monmouth defeated St. Francis of New York 67-64 under the leadership of four-year head coach Dave Calloway. I congratulate Coach Calloway and his team for reaching this impressive milestone.

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Monday night's achievement offers me the opportunity to highlight Monmouth University—an outstanding educational institution located near the seashore in Monmouth County, NJ. I have always been very proud of "Monmouth" which has educated thousands of my constituents over the years with the highest academic standards. In recent years, it has grown from a small college to a university. It now has a total student population of 5,635 and an outstanding faculty of 220. It features the only B.S. and M.S. program in Software Engineering in New Jersey, not to mention many other innovative academic offerings.

Originally its only large campus building was Wilson Hall—the summer home of Woodrow Wilson when he was President. In 1961, Monmouth College was bequeathed the summer home of the wealthy Guggenheim family for use as a library. Both structures are on the National Register of Historic Places. Since then, many impressive campus buildings have been constructed including one named after my predecessor, Representative James J. Howard.

The success of the Monmouth "Hawks" basketball team has in many ways paralleled the growth of Monmouth University as an educational institution. I congratulate them on their success and wish them the best of luck on their near and long-term endeavors.

WAIVING THE MEDICARE PART B  
PENALTY FOR MILITARY RETIREES  
WHO ENROLL IN TRICARE  
FOR LIFE

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 13, 2001*

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce a bill to amend the portion of last year's Defense Authorization Act that extends health care benefits to military retirees.

Congress made great strides toward fulfilling its promise of health care for life for all members of the military when it extended TRICARE benefits to retired members of the military and their families. However, the legislation required that beneficiaries have Medicare Part B.

I have been contacted by several constituents who would like to take advantage of the new health benefits, but never enrolled in Medicare Part B. Current law states that if a person is not enrolled in Medicare Part B, their monthly premium is increased 10% for each year past the age of 65 that they have not been enrolled. For example, an 80-year-old individual enrolling in Medicare Part B for the first time would have a 150% penalty. Their monthly premium would be \$125. The base premium for Medicare Part B is \$50.

My bill waives the 10 percent penalty for enrolling in Medicare Part B. It also waives the Medicare Part B requirement for military retirees who are already enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan.

Military retirees should not be penalized for not having Medicare Part B. In addition, retirees should not be forced to enroll in Medicare Part B if they are already enrolled in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

HONORS ROSE SORRENTINO ON  
HER 80TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 13, 2001*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor one of New Haven, Connecticut's most treasured residents and my dear friend, Rose Sorrentino, as she celebrates her 80th birthday. Throughout her life, Rose has been an inspiration to all of those who have known her.

I have often spoke of the importance of volunteer work and the tremendous impact volunteers have on our communities. When I speak of the time and dedication that they give, I often think of all the good work Rose has done. A founder and past editor of the Bella Vista Reporter, Rose continues to write for the residential publication, ensuring that residents are informed about those issues most important to seniors. Rose has been the President of Bella Vista's 321 Club for over twenty years and she continues to volunteer as a courtesy caller—making several calls each morning to check on her friends and neighbors.

For the past thirty years, Rose has dedicated her energy and enthusiasm to giving a strong voice to the residents of Bella Vista and the elderly. In addition to her work at Bella Vista, Rose has also given her time to numerous local and State committees and service organizations. She continues to be an active member of the Committee on Aging for the State of Connecticut, the Committee Supporters of Hospice, and the Committee of the Elderly for the City of New Haven. Over the course of three decades, Rose has established herself as one of the most vocal advocates for Connecticut's elderly.

Rose is known throughout the City of New Haven for her work as Democratic Ward chair for New Haven's 13th Ward. Her vibrancy and fervor is contagious—exhibiting the energy and tenacity one would see in someone more than half her age. Rose's commitment to public service is undeniable and she has certainly left an indelible mark on the local political arena.

A mother of four, grandmother of three, and great-grandmother of three, I am continually in awe of the seemingly endless commitment and dedication Rose shows each day. I am proud to stand today and join her children, Penny, Peggy, Ernestine, and Susan, family, friends and community members in extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to Rose Sorrentino for her many contributions to our community. My warmest wishes for many more years of health and happiness. Happy birthday!

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

BOROUGH OF BUTLER  
CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 13, 2001*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to offer congratulations to the Borough of Butler, of Morris County, New Jersey, which celebrates its centennial anniversary today.

Although known as Butler today, this community was originally called West Bloomingdale.

Nestled in the foothills of the Ramapo Mountains, West Bloomingdale was still a village until, in 1879, land speculators realized the economic opportunities that could come to this area along the banks of the Kakeout Brook and Pequannock River.

The growth of the community is directly linked to the development of the rubber industry in the area. In fact, the community honored the president of the American Rubber Company, Richard Butler, by naming its post office after him in 1881.

Through the efforts of Mr. Butler, the land was surveyed and the village streets were laid out. Mr. Butler also donated land for the early school and the churches within the community.

As an industrial community, Butler experienced extensive growth, both economically and socially. Factories were built, the population grew, freight and passenger train service thrived.

By an act of the New Jersey Legislature, Butler became incorporated on March 13, 1901.

Prominent in the continued development of the borough was the American Hard Rubber Company and the Pequannoc Rubber Company, which employed over 1,000 people. The relatively stable employment picture of these two plants contributed to the economic welfare of the community.

The Borough of Butler owned municipal services not possessed by many other towns of a like size in the country. The Butler Water Company and The Butler Electric Company have serviced Butler and surrounding communities since the early 1900's. In 1902 the Butler Volunteer Fire Department was formed. Law enforcement was handled under the Marshall system from 1901 until March 13, 1939 when the Butler Police Department was started. The borough has graciously funded the Butler Museum since 1976 so that its history can be retained.

A fire at the Pequannoc River Company in 1957 and the closure of the Amerace Corporation (American Hard Rubber Company) in 1974 brought an end to the heyday of the factories in Butler and the beginnings of the lovely town one sees today.

Butler's Centennial Celebration has its 7,200 residents reminiscing about its rich history and it has them looking forward to retaining Butler's "small town" quality, which serves as an attraction for small business' and industries.

The mayor and town council are beginning the next 100 years by revitalizing the borough with an attractive downtown area, by its continuing support of its schools, and by ongoing beautification programs for the borough park.

*March 13, 2001*

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Borough of Butler on its 100th anniversary.

IN MEMORY OF SHERIFF GENE  
DARNELL

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 13, 2001*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of Representatives of the passing of my good friend Gene Darnell, a resident of Lexington, Missouri. He was 68.

Gene, a son of the late Ennis Mark and Hannah K. Elkins Darnell, was born in Dover, Missouri, on June 12, 1932. He married Leona "Onie" Clouse on March 6, 1954. Gene then served honorably and successfully in the United States Army. He was very proud of his service as a soldier.

Gene was a deputy sheriff for Lafayette County from 1959 to 1964. In 1964, he was elected Sheriff of Lafayette County, and he was reelected six additional times. Gene was truly a unique and highly respected politician, a brilliant investigator, a masterful interrogator and a believable witness. He was founding member of the Missouri Rural Major Case Squad, and was Missouri Sheriff Pension Board Director. He was also a graduate of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy.

Mr. Speaker, Gene Darnell will be greatly missed by all who knew him. I know the Members of the House will join in extending heartfelt condolences to his family his wife Onie and his siblings, Fred Darnell, Kathryn Hayes and Mary Ann Mais.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TELEWORK  
TAX INCENTIVE ACT

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 13, 2001*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill to provide a \$500 tax credit for telework. The purpose of my legislation is to provide an incentive to encourage more employers to consider telework for their employees. Telework should be a regular part of the 21st century workplace. The best part of telework is that it improves the quality of life for all.

Nearly 20 million Americans telework today, and according to experts, 40 percent of American jobs are compatible with telework. Telework reduces traffic congestion and air pollution. It reduces gas consumption and our dependency on foreign oil. Telework is good for families—working parents have flexibility to meet everyday demands. Telework provides people with disabilities greater job opportunities. Telework helps fill our nation's labor market shortage. It is also a good way for retirees to pick up part-time work.

Companies save significantly when they have a strong telecommuting program. At one